

Education and Participation Package (Bildungs- und Teilhabepaket)

Information for parents of children cared for at day-care centre or by childminders.

Dear parents,

All children should have equal opportunities when it comes to education and participating in society. This should not depend on family income. Therefore, financial aid is available through the Education and Participation Package (BuT).

Who is eligible for the Education and Participation Package?

Children and adolescents, who themselves or their parents receive:

- Unemployment benefit II (Arbeitslosengeld II)
- Income support (Sozialgeld)
- Social benefits (Sozialhilfe)
- Child allowance (Kinderzuschlag)
- Housing benefits (Wohngeld), or
- Benefits under the asylum seekers benefits act (Leistungen nach dem Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz).
- Even if none of the above benefits are received because the disposable income is a little too high, you may still be entitled to individual Education and Participation benefits. In this case, the Jobcenter is the first port of call.

What kind of the Education and Participation benefits are available?

- Lunch costs at the day-care centre or childminder's (currently EUR 23 per month) are covered; **new** as of 1 August 2019: the recipient's own monthly contribution of € 20 is waived, so that lunch is free of charge.
- Day trip participation costs organized by the day-care centre or childminder are covered.
- Participation costs for trips lasting several days with the day-care centre or childminder are covered.
- Participation costs in community social and cultural life are covered.

How can my child participate free of charge in lunch and day trips with the day-care centre and the childminder?

- If you receive one of the social benefits listed above, you are also entitled to the education package benefits for your children.
- You do not need to submit a written application. A separate application is only required for the housing benefit office (Wohngeldstelle).

- You only need to submit the necessary documents (the contract with the day-care centre or childminder or the invoice for day-care food).
- You need to do this at the benefit office where you previously applied for your own benefits. This is the job centre (Jobcenter), the Social Welfare Office (Sozialamt), the State Office for Refugee Matters (Landesamt für Flüchtlingsangelegenheiten) or the Housing Benefits Office (Wohngeldstelle) (the latter is also responsible for the entitled group of child allowance recipients).
- You will then receive a **berlinpass-BuT**.
- The berlinpass-BuT must be immediately submitted to your child's day-care centre. You will no longer pay the parental contribution of €23 for your child's lunch at day-care centre during the specified allowance period. Your child will then receive a free lunch. During this period, your child can also take part in day-care centre trips free of charge.
- In the case of childminders, the berlinpass-BuT must be submitted to your Youth Welfare Office (Jugendamt). The parental contribution for lunch is also waived here. If you incur costs on day-care trips, you can submit proof confirmed by the childminder to your benefit office and receive reimbursement.
- Please be sure to renew the berlinpass-BuT in due time before it expires!
- In addition to the benefits included in the Education Package, the berlinpass-BuT includes discounted admission to cultural institutions, sports and leisure activities, just like the "normal" berlinpass. If you wish to use the berlinpass-BuT for these purposes, you will need to submit a passport photo (3,5 cm x 4,5 cm) of your child at the benefit office. Information, offers and discounts can be found at:
<http://www.berlin.de/sen/soziales/soziale-sicherung/berlinpass/>.

How can my child participate in trips lasting several days with the day-care centre or childminder free of charge?

- The costs of trips lasting several days with the day-care centre or childminder will be paid for by the benefit centre where you previously applied for your own benefits. There is a separate form for this, on which the day-care centre/childminder also provides the required information.

What assistance do I receive if my child wants to do an activity in the community in their free time?

- Children and adolescents (under 18 years of age) may also be entitled to receive benefits for participation in community social and cultural life (sports, games, culture, participation in organised leisure activities). They should have the opportunity to organise their leisure time in a meaningful way. This can be, for example, training at a sports club, learning to play a musical instrument, early music education or taking part in the activities offered by leisure facilities and youth associations. Swimming courses and activities at museums may also be eligible. In individual cases, the day-care centre may also organise and offer eligible courses for a fee.
- For example, the costs for club and membership fees and course fees may be eligible. From 1 August 2019, the benefit amount will be EUR 15 per month, regardless of the actual costs. All you have to do is submit proof of the offer to your benefit office (e.g. membership contract with the sports club, invoice for course fees). The funds will then be transferred directly to your account.
- The purchase of necessary equipment or the payment of rental fees as well as travel expenses may also be subsidised.

Further information and the forms are available online at
<http://www.berlin.de/sen/bjf/bildungspaket/>.